

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 62, line 8, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- As shown in Figs. 17A to 17D, the pole 12 is formed in a part of the space 15 in the thermo-optic phase shifter in the thirteenth embodiment. The pole 12 is formed of a material with a ~~larger etching rate~~ smaller etching rate than the sacrifice layer 2 (see Fig. 1D). For instance, the pole 12 is formed of BPSG, when the sacrifice layer 2 is formed of PSG. The pole 12 is provided in a portion of the bridge section 14a in the longitudinal direction of the bridge section 14a to support the bridge section 14a to the substrate 1. The pole 12 restricts the degrees-of-freedom of the bridge section 14a in the vertical direction.--